AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(a) detecting a requirement for thermal energy input in ~~said~~ a mammal **by detecting the presence of vasoconstriction in said mammal**;

(b) contacting a surface of a portion of said mammal in response to the presence of said requirement with a warm temperature medium under negative pressure conditions for a period of time sufficient to introduce thermal energy into the core body of said mammal; and

(c) maintaining a substantially constant core body temperature of said mammal ~~under said cold conditions~~ by maintaining the contact with said warm temperature medium.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said requirement is detected by detecting the presence of a thermoregulatory error in said mammal.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises at least partially enclosing said portion of said mammal in a sealed enclosure to produce an enclosed portion of said mammal.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said method is a method of maintaining said core body temperature of said mammal substantially constant for a temporal duration of at least about 60 min and said method comprises performing steps (a), (b) and (c) at least twice during said temporal duration.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said portion of said mammal is a limb or a portion thereof.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said limb is selected from the group consisting of an arm and a leg.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said enclosure has a pressure ranging from about –20 to –80 mm Hg.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said warm temperature medium has a temperature ranging from about 44 to 48 °C.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said period of time ranges from about 1 to 600 min.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said mammal is a human.

12. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(a) monitoring ~~said~~ a mammal during a temporal duration of at least about 60 minutes under cold conditions for the presence of a thermoregulatory error **by detecting the presence of vasoconstriction in said mammal**;

(b) contacting a surface of an enclosed portion of said mammal in response to the presence of said thermoregulatory error with a warm temperature medium under negative pressure conditions for a period of time sufficient to introduce thermal energy into the core body of said mammal; and

(c) maintaining a substantially constant core body temperature of said mammal under said cold conditions by maintaining the contact with said warm temperature medium.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, wherein said method further comprises at least partially enclosing said portion of said mammal in a sealed enclosure to produce an enclosed portion of said mammal.

15. (Original) The method according to Claim 12, wherein said portion of said mammal is a limb or a portion thereof.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein said limb is selected from the group consisting of an arm and a leg.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said enclosure has a pressure ranging from about –20 to –80 mm Hg.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 12, wherein said warm temperature medium has a temperature ranging from about 44 to 48 °C.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, wherein said period of time ranges from about 60 to 600 min.

20. (Original) The method according to Claim 12, wherein said mammal is a human.

21. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(a) monitoring ~~said~~ **a** mammal during a temporal duration of at least about 60 minutes under cold conditions for the presence of a vasoconstriction **to detect a requirement for thermal energy input**; and

(b) contacting a surface of an enclosed portion of said mammal in response to the presence of said vasoconstriction with a warm temperature medium under negative pressure conditions ranging from about –20 to –80 mm Hg for a period of time ranging from about 1 to 600 min;

(c) maintaining a substantially constant core body temperature of said mammal under said cold conditions by maintaining the contact with said warm temperature medium.

22. (Currently Amended) A device for introducing thermal energy into the core body of a mammal under cold conditions, said device comprising:

(a) a means for detecting a requirement for thermal energy input in said mammal **by detecting the presence of vasoconstriction in said mammal**;

(b) an enclosure for at least partially enclosing a portion of said mammal;

(c) a negative pressure generator; and

(d) a warmer.

23. (Original) The device according to Claim 22, wherein said portion of said mammal is a limb or portion thereof.

24. (Original) The device according to Claim 23, wherein said limb is selected from the group consisting of an arm and a leg.

25. (Original) The device according to Claim 22, wherein said means for detecting a requirement for thermal energy input in said mammal is a means for detecting a thermoregulatory error in said mammal.

26. (Original) The device according to Claim 25, wherein said means for detecting a requirement for thermal energy input in said mammal is a vasoconstriction detecting means.

27. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 22, wherein said negative pressure generator is capable of producing a negative pressure ranging from about –20 to –80 mm Hg.

28. (Original) The device according to Claim 22, wherein said mammal is a human.

29. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 22, wherein said enclosure has a configuration selected from the group consisting of a sleeve, a glove and a boot.